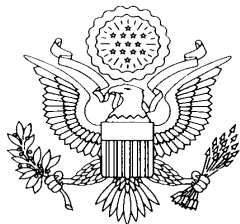


AFRICA NEWS REPORT



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AEF501 11/05/2004

United States Condemns Aerial Bombing Attack in Cote d'Ivoire

(Calls on all parties to pursue peace process) (220)

The United States condemned the recent aerial attacks in and around the city of Bouaké, Cote d'Ivoire, and calls on all parties to pursue the peace process in that country, State Department spokesman Richard Boucher announced November 4.

Following is the text of that statement:

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Office of the Spokesman

November 4, 2004

STATEMENT BY RICHARD BOUCHER, SPOKESMAN

Attacks in and around Bouaké, Cote d'Ivoire

The United States condemns the aerial attacks in and around the city of Bouaké carried out by Government of Cote d'Ivoire aircraft. We urge all parties to exercise restraint and to work together to decrease tensions that have risen to dangerous levels in recent weeks. The United States calls on all parties to pursue the peace process in accordance with their commitments in the Linas-Marcoussis (Lee-Nas Mar-Coussi) accords, Accra III, and other peace agreements, which include enacting reforms through the legislature and disarming former combatants.

We are deeply disturbed that so far, political leaders on all sides have failed to put the welfare of the people of Cote d'Ivoire above narrow political interests. Those parties that continue to undermine the peace process and seek to resume the war will be held accountable.

(Distributed by the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>)

AEF302 11/03/2004

Ivorian Political Leaders Looking at American Model of Moderation

(Trip to Washington, New York and Pittsburgh views U.S. parties, elections) (1400)

By Charles W. Corey

Washington File Staff Writer

Washington -- A delegation of government, party and civic leaders took a bold step to help shape Cote d'Ivoire into a country they hope will be one in which political parties will meet to exchange ideas, compromise and come to a consensus in the nation's best interest, declared Sebastien Djedje Dano, Minister of National Reconciliation.

In a recent interview with the Washington File during the delegation's visit to the United States October 24- November 3, Dano spoke of the aspirations of the eleven representatives of Cote d'Ivoire's government, its leading political parties and non-governmental organizations. Dano and the delegation's remarks were translated from French into English.

"We have a wonderful country, which is extremely wealthy at all levels [despite being] an underdeveloped country," he said, with great natural wealth in oil, gold, diamonds, coffee, cocoa, cotton and very rich culturally, ethnically and racially, with more than 100 different ethnic groups.

Twenty-six percent of the country is made up of foreigners, Dano said, which includes Africans, Asians, Americans, and Europeans, "so we are dreaming of a multi-cultural, multi-racial and multi-ethnic Cote d'Ivoire, with all of these people coming together in a common crucible that we can call a nation...."

"We are hoping that all Ivorians will identify themselves as such and we want to build and fashion the Ivorian nation, of course, in that fashion. That is why we are working to find agreement on common parameters like what is done in the United States." In that vein, he said, "We are hoping to be able to build a small American Ivory Coast," where diversity can be used to everyone's advantage.

Commenting on the importance of what can be learned from their brief visit to Washington, New York and Pittsburgh (Pennsylvania), Theophile Assa Koby, a board member of the Democratic Party of Cote d'Ivoire-African Democratic Rally said it is exciting to witness firsthand the American electoral experience.

"We can see the different way democracy is practiced in the United States and learn from that. You have a federal system and we have a very centralized government. You are very rich. We are not as rich. So you can see that we can help each other. We can have an exchange of mutual ideas and experience."

Another delegation member, Alain Michael Agnima Lobognon, national secretary in charge of communication for Les Forces Nouvelles (New Forces) noted, "Our country is going through a major political crisis at the moment and it is important that countries such as the United States get involved and help the Ivory Coast get out of this crisis."

Asked if political parties can help a nation work through its problems, Anicet Guela Miniobbo Gnanzi, secretary general of UDCY Democratic Citizen Union party said, "Political parties actually should play an important role in that area. First of all reaching out to people, encouraging them to return to areas controlled by the government and the safe or 'atrust' areas. So the political parties should reach out and organize people; encourage them to return to the land because that is where the people are most needed -- in the role they played prior to the crisis."

Dano, the minister for national reconciliation readily agreed. "Political parties are important," for that process. "For that reason, we have set up a committee in which all are represented so all can join together to promote peace and reconciliation. So political parties have a very important role to play.

"Unfortunately, in Cote d'Ivoire," he lamented, "we are only one year away from elections and so every political party is much more concerned about the upcoming election," and jockeying for position. "This," he warned, "does not make the task any easier."

Asked about the role women can play in national reconciliation, Zoko Huguette Roude, president of Lomou Assoho, an NGO active in the role of women in conflict negotiation and the only woman in the delegation, said in Cote d'Ivoire that women can "add a little bit of love into all that decision making.

"Women are struggling to play a role...to find a small seat next to the men so as to inject some flexibility... It is important that women play a role in the politics of all countries."

Ivorian women right now are playing a very important role economically speaking, she said, while warning that "instability leads to the closing of factories, capital flight, and unemployment." In the rural areas and domestic settings as well, she said, "women play a very important role indeed."

Commenting on what they had observed while in the United States during the presidential election, Lobognon said, "I followed the presidential and vice-presidential debates, which revolved around key issues of Americans interest. These are examples to be followed," he said.

Lobognon added that he was also impressed because there was no aggressiveness between the two candidates. "When I hear each of

the candidates talk about what is important to him, it provides insight into what America and its government policies will look like after the November 2 election."

Offering his impressions, Beh Diabate, deputy national secretary of the FPI (Ivorian Popular Front) said, "Africa here does not seem to exist in these elections. I look at the various television channels, I do not understand English very well but I have never heard the word Africa. Africa is not on the radar screens. You talk about Iraq, America, but not Africa."

Another delegation member, Didier Koffi, technical advisor to the minister of national reconciliation said, "When it comes to external issues, you don't see any posters on walls and no meetings. It seems that the election process in the United States is a very discreet one. Maybe you use more indirect methods like ads, but externally, there does not seem to be any sign or evidence that the election is taking place.

"In Cote d'Ivoire we have a lot of outdoor meetings. It is a very obvious process back home. It seems you have a very discreet electoral process. Perhaps this somewhat relaxes the campaign and there is less tension because of this...."

Koby said he was most impressed by the impartiality of reporters covering the election. "What strikes me is how the commercial press covers both major political parties equally. That," he said, "shows that the government and state does not influence what the media has to say."

Bakary Sinan, the secretary general of the Future Forces Movement said, "Since we have arrived, I have noticed that Americans are much more concerned about their image overseas but there are also issues of interest such as the economy, health and internal security. What impresses me is that Americans will chose a candidate on what is happening in Iraq, and that is very impressive. For us, we come from a republic, our choice hinges much more on internal rather than external issues. But here, it seems that foreign issues will play a much more important role than domestic ones."

Roude said that as a woman, she would like to learn more about the role of women in the American political process. "I don't see many women in these political organizations.... I see the president and their spouses -- are women present elsewhere? I don't know, I just don't see them much.... Whereas back home, you find them in decision-making positions, you find them in the rural areas, everywhere. I would like to understand that better."

The delegation also included three additional leaders: Samuel Anani Gadegbeku, board member with Rally of the Republicans; Leopold Die Kouaho, secretary general in charge of communication of the Ivorian Workers' Party and Jean Kemiangnan Oulai, executive committee member of the Union for Democracy and Peace in Cote d'Ivoire.

While in the United States, the delegation held a wide array of talks in Washington before traveling to the United Nations in New York and then on to Pittsburgh (Pennsylvania) to watch the November 2 election unfold firsthand.

The program, Conflict Negotiation and the U.S. Political Process, was sponsored by the U.S. Department of State as part of its International Visitor Leadership Program in the Bureau of Education and Cultural Affairs.

(The Washington File is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>)

AEF305 11/03/2004

New Aid Agency Effectively Promoting Reform, U.S. Says (Millennium Challenge Corp. cites imposition of anti-corruption measures) (750)

The Bush administration's new supplemental foreign aid agency, the Millennium Challenge Corp. (MCC), reports that some developing countries are adopting reforms to meet the corporation's grant eligibility requirements -- even before the corporation awards its first grants.

In a November 2 press release, the MCC said its poverty-reduction indicators have influenced a number of governments to take measures to remedy corruption and support entrepreneurs.

"The MCC is yielding results even before spending money," the release said.

The MCC was established in January to administer the Millennium Challenge Account (MCA), which targets aid funds to countries that govern well, invest in education and health care, and promote healthy environments for economic growth.

An example of accomplishments prior to grant awards in the first 16 countries named as eligible to develop grant proposals has been a significant reduction in the number of days it takes to start a new business, the release said.

After MCC staff consulted with all eligible countries earlier in 2004, the agency received its first country proposal for a grant in August. Since then, most of the other eligible countries have submitted proposals or concept papers, it said.

Following is the text of MCC's press release:

Millennium Challenge Corporation

Press Release

November 2, 2004

Reducing Poverty Through Growth

Millennium Challenge Account: Already Paying Dividends

On January 23, 2004, the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) was established to administer the Millennium Challenge Account (MCA), an innovative new foreign assistance program designed to make U.S. aid more effective. Congress appropriated slightly less than \$1 billion for the MCA's inaugural year. In the months since its inception, MCC has set up its operational structure, selected countries to submit proposals for assistance, and put itself in position to assess the country proposals that began to arrive in late August.

The MCC is yielding results even before spending money.

MCC is built on the common sense idea that foreign aid yields better results when invested where policies are already in place to support poverty reduction and economic growth -- policies such as good governance, investment in health and education and an enabling environment for entrepreneurs. The MCA incentive has already prompted reform; anecdotal evidence points to a strong MCA role.

For example:

Since the announcement of MCA indicators in February 2003, the median number of "days to start a business" dropped from 61 to 47 in MCA candidate countries.

Many countries have targeted corruption -- a primary MCC indicator -- and are making strides to remedy corruption within their governments. One country, for example, passed four pieces of anti-corruption legislation and began enforcement, publicly justifying the need to act on the hope of receiving MCA assistance.

MCC set ambitious targets, then met them, moving as fast as legislation allowed.

The MCA legislation includes a series of sequential requirements -- naming candidate countries, publishing criteria and methodology for selection, and holding a public comment period -- each followed by a waiting period before selection can take place.

Starting with only 7 detailed employees, MCC met every one of these requirements so that the MCC Board was able to select MCA-eligible countries on May 6, the earliest date possible under the law.

By the end of June, MCC teams had visited all 16 MCA-eligible countries to explain the MCA and the central role their country must play in assessing barriers to growth, identifying priorities and developing a proposal through a broad consultation.

The early indications are that the consultative process is working. Some countries have consulted NGO [nongovernmental organization] and business sectors for the first time. Mongolia is holding public meetings across the country.

Armenia has broadcast public meetings on national TV. One candidate country official said, "even if we receive less than requested, the intangibles gained from taking control of our own development destiny are the most important part of the process."

The first country proposal reached MCC in late August and most MCA countries have since made proposals or shared concept papers.

MCC is open for business and ready to negotiate Compacts with ready partners.

MCC is continuing to staff up and is analyzing country proposals to assess their potential to reduce poverty and create sustainable economic growth.

MCC is consulting with Congress about entering Compact negotiations, and is conducting significant due diligence to be comfortable that proposals are viable and promise to be a good investment of American taxpayer dollars.

(Distributed by the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>)

AEF401 11/04/2004

Darfur Sinking into Anarchy, U.N. Envoy Warns

(Security Council wants peace agreement by November 19) (980)

By Judy Aita

Washington File United Nations Correspondent

United Nations -- Warning that Darfur could sink into a "state of anarchy," the U.N. special envoy for Sudan said November 4 that the upcoming Security Council meeting in Nairobi, Kenya, must be "an event to influence conditions on the ground."

Jan Pronk told the Security Council: "Darfur may easily enter a state of anarchy, a total collapse of law and order. The conflict is changing in character ... the spirit is out of the bottle and cannot be pushed back."

"Nobody is fully in control. I call that anarchy," Pronk said at a press conference. "Let's face it, there is a war. The Jingaweit claim they have the whole area under control (and) Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) commanders have Khartoum in their eyes."

The government does not control its own forces fully nor can it count on the obedience of the Jingaweit militia; the lines between the military, paramilitary and police are being blurred, Pronk said.

Within the rebel movements there is a leadership crisis and splits in the groups, he said, and political leaders are increasingly unable to control their forces on the ground.

Warning that Darfur may soon be "ruled by warlords," Pronk said that rebel commanders "provoke their adversaries by stealing, hijacking and killing, some seem to have begun acting for their own private gain. They now control so much territory that they either take responsibility for the needs of the people therein and become political leaders, or they may turn to preying on the civilians in the areas they control by force." Fighting is breaking out in more and more places, and parties are provoking one another, Pronk reported. If this negative trend is not reversed "it is a recipe for disaster," he warned.

The Security Council needs to send a message to rebel groups "that their rebel status does not exonerate them from a moral obligation towards their people," the U.N. envoy said. "On the contrary, as political leaders, they are as responsible for civilian protection as much as the Government of Sudan."

Pronk proposed a three-pronged approach: getting the large African Union (AU) force into the region quickly to act as a buffer between groups; speeding up all of the peace negotiations; and holding all political leaders -- the official ones as well as the self-appointed ones -- accountable for ongoing violations.

Even though the 5,000-member AU force is being deployed, Pronk said, its deployment needs to be quickened so that the forces can get to insecure areas that might get out of control and explode.

"It is the duty of the international community," the U.N. envoy said, "to consider further action if the actions taken so far prove to be insufficient."

U.S. Ambassador John Danforth, president of the Security Council for the month of November, issued a press statement expressing the council's "deep concern at the deteriorating situation in Sudan and especially in Darfur. The members of the council join the secretary general in condemning in the strongest possible terms the forced relocation of internally displaced persons."

The council also reiterates its call to the government of Sudan to stop the forcible relocation of civilians, return those who were moved, and allow aid workers immediate access to all camps, Danforth said.

On November 19 and 20, the Security Council will hold a two-day meeting in Nairobi, where peace talks have been taking place to resolve the long-running civil war in southern Sudan. Darfur will also be on the council's agenda. The council will discuss the issues with representatives of the African Union, which has a cease-fire-monitoring mission in Darfur; the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, which supervises the southern Sudan peace talks; the government of Sudan; and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement.

Danforth said that the council is pressing for the North-South peace agreement -- which would also have a positive impact on the people of Darfur -- to be finalized by the time of the meeting.

In addition, the ambassador said, the council is working on a resolution that would be adopted in Nairobi that spells out "the continuing engagement of the international community in Sudan, assuming that there is a peace agreement."

"We want to suggest two things," Danforth said. "First of all, nothing good is going to come to the various groups -- both the government and the SPLM -- if there is delay. We're therefore engaged in the so-called 'stick' aspect. But we also want to present

the concept of the 'carrot,' namely that the international community will be there for the future of Sudan assuming that there is peace."

"It is very important for both the government of Sudan and the SPLM to realize that when they're negotiating in Kenya with respect to the North-South process, they either are going to establish or fail to establish a broad framework for the governing of the whole country, which would provide stability for the whole country," the ambassador said.

Negotiations "are going on way too long," Danforth said. "It is said that there is one remaining issue. I, for one, don't understand why that remaining issue can't be wrapped up in short order."

"We would expect both parties to come to an agreement very quickly for the sake of the overall stability of the entire country, including Darfur," he said.

There is plenty of blame to go around," the U.S. ambassador added. "There is plenty of room for improvement and the improvement has to come from all sides."

(The Washington File is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>)

AEF301 11/03/2004

U.S. Concerned Over Forced Shift of Sudan Civilians in Darfur (Urges support of African Union mission to establish peace, security) (410)

The United States, in a statement issued November 3, expressed "deep concern" over the forcible relocation of Sudanese civilians from internally-displaced-persons camps in South Darfur by the Sudanese government and the denial of humanitarian access to the camps.

Following is the statement by State Department spokesman Richard Boucher:

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Office of the Spokesman

November 3, 2004

Statement by Richard Boucher, Spokesman

On the Forced Relocation of Internally Displaced Persons from Al Geer village, South Darfur

The United States strongly supports the United Nations Secretary General in expressing its deep concern over reports of ongoing Sudanese government efforts to forcibly relocate civilians from internally displaced persons camps in Al Geer village, South Darfur, and the denial of humanitarian access to these camps. Forcible relocation is in direct contravention of the United Nations Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement and is a violation of Security Council Resolutions 1556 and 1564. It is also inconsistent with the understanding reached between the Government of Sudan, the United Nations, and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) on the necessity of any returns being voluntary. We call on the Government of Sudan to cease the forcible relocation of civilians, disengage forces surrounding other camps and allow humanitarian workers immediate access.

The United States stands with the international community in holding the government of the Sudan responsible for the violations and requests immediate return of all the displaced persons moved to Al Geer. We also request active involvement of the UN, International Organizations, and the African Union in monitoring the safety of displaced persons and withdrawal of Government forces.

The United States remains deeply concerned about the

safety and security of Sudanese civilians in Darfur. The recent kidnapping of 18 hostages by the Darfur rebels is disturbing, as is the mobilization of thousands of Arab militia in areas of West and South Darfur. Both indicate that the parties to the conflict in Darfur are not serious about establishing peace. We urge all parties to immediately refrain from acts of violence as agreed to under the April 8 N'djamena Ceasefire Agreement and to support the African Union Mission in Sudan to establish peace and security in Darfur. We also urge the parties to rapidly sign humanitarian and security agreements at the African Union mediated talks in Abuja, Nigeria.

(Distributed by the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>)

AEF502 11/05/2004

U.S. Trade Panel Rejects Dumping Duties on South Africa Aluminum

(International Trade Commission finds no evidence of injury to U.S. producers) (200)

Washington -- The U.S. International Trade Commission (USITC) has decided not to impose anti-dumping duties on aluminum imports from South Africa, ending the investigation on those imports.

In a November 5 final negative determination USITC commissioners said they have not found sufficient evidence that U.S. imports of aluminum plate from that country injured or threatened domestic producers of similar products.

Imposition of anti-dumping duties requires final affirmative determinations both from the Commerce Department that dumping occurred and from USITC that the imports injured or threatened a U.S. industry.

The department announced October 5 its affirmative final determination on dumping and said it calculated the dumping margin at 3.51 percent.

In 2003, U.S. imports of aluminum plate from South Africa amounted to \$29.3 million, up from \$7.4 million in 2002.

Dumping is the import of goods at a price below the home-market or a third-country price or below the cost of production. A dumping margin represents by how much the fair-value price exceeds the dumped price.

(Distributed by the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>)

AEF202 11/02/2004

Trade, Equities Up in S. Africa but U.S. Investor Confidence Lags

(Kansteiner cites flagging direct investment at Kaiser meeting) (670)

By Jim Fisher-Thompson

Washington File Staff Writer

Washington -- After 10 years of multiracial government, South Africa remains an economic powerhouse with an admirable trade record but an over-regulated business climate that continues to stifle direct U.S. investments, says former Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Walter Kansteiner, who once closed one of the continent's biggest equity deals.

The former official took part in an October 27 discussion on current conditions in South Africa co-sponsored by the Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation and the Council on Foreign Relations.

The program also featured the release of a survey of South African opinion following its 10 years of multiracial democracy, conducted jointly by the Kaiser Foundation, the Washington Post and Harvard University.

"The trade side of [U.S.] business confidence in South Africa is extremely high," Kansteiner told the Kaiser panel. For example, "South Africa has probably benefited from AGOA [the African Growth and Opportunity Act, which allows African goods duty- and quota-free access into the U.S. market] more than any other country.

"The trade numbers are way up. So there is increasing interest among American businesses to look at trade opportunities," he said. Overall, South African exports to America jumped from \$4,432 billion in 2001 to \$4,637 billion in 2003.

Kansteiner was President Bush's assistant secretary of state for African affairs from 2001 to 2004, during which time he helped implement the administration's policy of business as the engine for change and

sustainable growth on the continent, a philosophy most development experts as well as African officials now agree offers the best hope for reducing poverty.

Early in his business career, Kansteiner helped found the Scowcroft Group, the international business-consulting firm to which he returned after leaving the State Department. It was there he focused on emerging markets and specialized in commodities trading in Africa. He sparked attention when he advised buyers in the \$1.3 billion privatization of Telkom, South Africa -- the largest such deal on the continent.

In South Africa now, "portfolio investment opportunities, that is, trading in debt and equities -- stocks and bonds -- is also very high," Kansteiner told the panel. "The Johannesburg Stock Exchange has increasing capital flows coming in from European and American investors, as do their bond markets. So that is a significant tick up [improvement]."

On the other hand, foreign direct investment -- "investing in bricks and mortar" -- is "very, very flat" in South Africa, said Kansteiner. Even though some economic policies put forward by the ruling African National Congress (ANC) party are "free-market friendly," American investors are still holding back, he said, in part because "the South African government has not dealt with some key regulatory issues," especially those affecting information technology (IT).

The issue of "black economic development," the idea of bringing more blacks who were excluded from economic power during the apartheid era into owner and management positions in business, is problematic because it is not terribly well-defined, Kansteiner said. "Most foreign investors understand the principle behind it and most would agree with it," but they are confused about how it should be implemented.

The investors understand the need for "a [mandatory] equity component for every new investment that includes black empowerment," but want the South African government to be clearer in outlining how it works, he explained.

Finally, the situation in Zimbabwe, where President Robert Mugabe's ruling party is interfering more and more in the economic life of the nation, is dampening U.S. investor confidence in the whole southern African region, the former official said.

When asked if South Africa should be doing more to influence the Mugabe regime, former U.S. Ambassador to Pretoria Cameroon Hume responded, "The best way for South Africa to lead is by the example of its own successes in political reconciliation" and economic reform.

(The Washington File is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>)

AEF402 11/04/2004

Polio Eradication Close, but Needs Funding

(Commentary by Gerberding, Bellamy, Estess and Heymann) (790)
(The following article -- by Dr. Julie Gerberding, director of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; Carol Bellamy, executive director of the U.N. Children's Fund; Glen Estess, Rotary International president; and David Heymann, executive director communicable disease at the World Health Organization -- was published in the International Herald Tribune October 28. Republished by permission. Copyright (c) 2004 by The International Herald Tribune. All rights reserved.)

(begin byliner)

Global Effort Could Banish Polio Forever

By Julie Gerberding, Carol Bellamy, Glen Estess and David Heymann

New York -- Ninety years ago on Thursday (October 28), Dr. Jonas Salk was born in New York. When Salk

was 41, he and his team of researchers gave the world its first vaccine against polio, freeing millions of families from daily fear.

The Salk vaccine, together with the oral polio vaccine developed by Albert Sabin, opened the door to a scientific onslaught against one of mankind's oldest enemies. Polio quickly vanished from North America and Western Europe.

In 1988, emboldened by the effectiveness of these vaccines and initial funding raised by the humanitarian service organization Rotary International, the nations of the world resolved to eradicate polio.

When the eradication initiative was begun, polio held sway in more than 125 countries, paralyzing 1,000 children every day. Only by immunizing every child under five against the disease could we prevent successive generations growing up with paralyzed limbs, lifelong pain and weakness. It would be a tremendous challenge against great odds.

Today, the world is tantalizingly close to beating those odds, and polio looks likely to become the first disease of the 21st century to succumb to human ingenuity.

Since 1988, the Global Polio Eradication Initiative, spearheaded by national governments, the World Health Organization, Rotary International, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and UNICEF, has slashed polio cases by more than 99 per cent, from 1,000 cases per day to 1,000 cases per year.

But before we can turn our back on polio, the world faces a test of will.

The virus is again ravaging parts of Africa, propelled by the weakness of overall health services in the region and the brief suspension of immunization activities in some parts of northern Nigeria. And despite generous investment from the global community, the polio eradication initiative faces a critical funding shortfall of \$200 million for the year ahead, \$35 million of which is needed urgently to support an adequate immunization response today.

Unless we act now, we could still see this unique opportunity slip away.

The threat of a widespread epidemic in Africa is being met with the continent's largest ever, unified health drive - a massive series of immunization campaigns across 23 countries to protect 80 million children. Millions of vaccinators and Rotary volunteers disperse

with coolers filled with polio vaccine, traveling on foot or on horseback, by motorcycle, boat or helicopter to reach and immunize every child.

The first of these campaigns began on Oct. 8. The next is scheduled to start on Nov. 18, followed by another round in the spring.

If these campaigns have to be curtailed for lack of funds, we risk diminishing the health security of every child on earth. Conversely, supporting these campaigns is an investment in our collective future.

The world has walked a long way toward polio eradication in the footsteps of Salk, Sabin and their fellow polio warriors. Only six countries have not yet stopped the virus: Nigeria, India, Pakistan, Niger, Afghanistan and Egypt. Around the world, five million children are walking who would otherwise have been paralyzed. Polio eradication has become the benchmark for all future multilateral, public-private partnerships. It has engaged 20 million volunteers worldwide, immunized more than two billion children and mobilized more than \$3 billion, of which more than \$500 million comes from Rotary International. Rotary has made polio eradication its top philanthropic goal for almost two decades.

We are within sight of a milestone in human history. But these final steps are the toughest and require the greatest commitment - at the country level, to immunize the poorest and hardest to reach children, and from the global community, to fast-track funding to this initiative and safeguard the enormous investments that have been made over the past 15 years.

More is at stake than the end of a single disease. Success against polio would be a triumph of international cooperation, attesting to our ability to unite across borders and differences to conquer global afflictions. It could bring renewed faith and momentum to our struggle against other scourges, like malaria, measles and AIDS.

There could be no more fitting tribute to Salk, his colleagues and their diligent work to advance humanity.

(end byliner)

(Distributed by the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>)

AEF303 11/03/2004

Ecuador, Senegal Focus of New U.N. Container Control Program

(Program aims to prevent uses of containers for criminal purposes) (570)

By Eric Green

Washington File Staff Writer

Washington -- A U.N. crime-fighting agency announced it is launching a new maritime container control program in the port cities of Guayaquil, Ecuador, and Dakar, Senegal, with the goal to help developing countries separate legal commercial trade from criminal activities.

The program is needed, the U.N.'s Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) said in an October 21 statement, because even though much of the merchandise transported in the more than 7 million containers that move around the world daily generates legitimate revenue for hundreds of millions of people, the containers increasingly are being used for trafficking in weapons, illegal drugs and chemical waste, and for shipping money earned illegally from organized crime. Most egregiously, containers also are being used for trafficking of people, said UNODC.

The agency said that it will work in partnership with the World Customs Organization (WCO) on bringing together new port control teams and providing them with training and equipment to

target illicit trafficking via maritime freight containers. UNODC said the \$1.5 million first phase of the program will begin in Guayaquil and Dakar, while similar port control activities should expand to Pakistan and Ghana in 2005.

UNODC Executive Director Antonio Maria Costa said container traffic has risen "enormously" over the past 10 years, to 220 million units in 2000, a figure that is expected to double by 2012.

Costa said that by visiting borders and ports in developing countries, "one can notice a huge number of trucks and containers without the specialized controls needed to separate commercial trade from criminal activities."

Michel Danet, the WCO's secretary general, said in an October 22 statement that the program will employ joint port control units comprising officers from different law enforcement bodies in Guayaquil and Dakar. These units will be given equipment and training for targeted operations against illicit drug trafficking, other transnational organized crime, and terrorism.

The program also aims to form alliances between the trade and law enforcement communities in their joint efforts to prevent the abuse of legitimate commercial trade for organized crime purposes, said the WCO, an independent, intergovernmental body based in Brussels, Belgium, that helps its members communicate and cooperate on customs issues. The WCO's more than 160 members include the United States.

Danet added that the new program "complements ongoing bilateral work between individual countries, and provides the means for developing countries to apply modern control measures to ensure the security of their borders." He said the use of risk assessment techniques in the program will lead to identification of "high-risk consignments [shipments] for law enforcement scrutiny without hindering the free flow of legitimate trade."

For its part, the U.S. Trade and Development Agency (USTDA) has announced it will sponsor a November 10-12 conference in Jacksonville, Florida, to provide guidance and training on implementing the International Maritime Organization's International Ship and Port Security (ISPS) Code in Latin America and the Caribbean.

The ISPS Code imposes detailed security-related requirements for governments, port authorities, and shipping companies to follow, together with a series of guidelines on how to fulfill them, the USTDA said in an October 26 statement.

Speakers at the conference will include Albert W. Angulo, USTDA's regional director for Latin America and the Caribbean; and John Jamian, deputy administrator of the U.S. Maritime Administration.

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AEF307 11/03/2004

USAID Invests \$2 Billion in Developing World Water, Coasts (Funds will help manage water resources, protect environment) (530)

The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) has announced five awards to help developing countries protect the environment and better manage water and coastal resources.

According to a November 1 USAID press release, the companies from the United States and the United Kingdom who won the competitive awards will support USAID's global program in integrated water and coastal resources management, activities

that bring together stakeholders and the latest scientific techniques for the responsible management of rivers and water resources.

The \$2 billion contract ceiling reflects the increased demand of water needs around the globe and will help USAID respond quickly to requests.

Components of integrated water and coastal resources management include managing water resources at the basin or watershed scale, optimizing water supply, managing demand, providing equitable access to water resources and improving policy and regulatory frameworks.

Text of the USAID press release follows:

U.S. Agency for International Development

November 1, 2004

USAID ANNOUNCES UMBRELLA CONTRACT FOR WATER AND COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

WASHINGTON, DC -- Today, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) announced five awards to support developing countries' long-term goals of developing and managing water and coastal resources, while protecting the environment and maintaining ecological balance. The five awards -- based on full and open competition -- fall under one umbrella called an Indefinite Quantity Contract (IQC), with a ceiling of \$2 billion.

Under this Indefinite Quantity Contract, the five awardees will exclusively support USAID's global program in integrated water and coastal resources management, a collection of activities that brings together stakeholders and the latest scientific techniques for the responsible management of rivers and water resources. Groups receiving the five awards are ARD Inc.; Chemonics International; PA Government Services, Inc.; Joint Venture of International Resources Group; and Tetra Tech, Inc.

USAID uses Indefinite Quantity Contracts to provide rapid services to USAID field missions and to staff offices for short-, medium-, and long-term activities. These services include support for program development, problem analysis, and implementation of activities. The \$2 billion ceiling for this contract reflects the increased demand of water needs around the globe, and demonstrates USAID's preparation to be quick and responsive when a request is made.

Components of integrated water and coastal resources management include:

- Managing water resources at the basin or watershed scale. This includes integrating land and water, upstream and downstream, groundwater, surface water, and coastal resources.

- Optimizing supply. This involves conducting assessments of surface and groundwater supplies, analyzing water balances, adopting wastewater reuse, and evaluating the environmental impacts of distribution and use options.

- Managing demand. This includes adopting cost-recovery policies, utilizing water-efficient technologies, and establishing decentralized water management authorities.

- Providing equitable access to water resources through participatory and transparent governance and management. This may include support for effective water users' associations, involvement of marginalized groups, and consideration of gender issues.

- Establishing improved and integrated policy, regulatory, and institutional frameworks.

The contract period is for five-years, effective September 30, 2004.

The U.S. Agency for International Development has provided economic and humanitarian assistance worldwide for more than 40 years.

(Distributed by the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>)

AEF201 11/02/2004

African Studies Thriving on U.S. College Campuses, Scholar Says

(Ambassador Shinn speaks at launch of West Virginia U.'s Maxon Fellowship) (980)

By Jim Fisher-Thompson

Washington File Staff Writer

Washington -- "Students just find Africa a fascinating continent to study and learn about," and thanks to the robust state of African studies at major universities in the United States, many more Americans are learning about the continent that is becoming increasingly vital to U.S. national security interests, says former diplomat turned political science professor David Shinn.

Shinn, who was U.S. ambassador to Ethiopia in the mid-1990s, detailed the progress of African studies -- history, culture, politics and economics -- in a keynote speech he gave October 27 at the launch of the Robert M. Maxon Fellowship in African History at the University of West Virginia (WVU).

Professor Robert Maxon was a pioneer in African studies, Shinn told his audience. Maxon devoted his research to the colonial period in East Africa, with emphasis on Kenya. "In addition to teaching numerous courses on East African and African history, he supervised doctoral [Ph.D.] students, including Tom Ofcansky, who is now with the Bureau of Intelligence and Research in the State Department," Shinn said.

Ofcansky accompanied Shinn, who now teaches at George Washington University (GWU) and who termed the new Maxon chair an "important milestone" for the development of African studies, not only at WVU but also at a number of other schools in a growing nationwide trend. Universities from Harvard to Stanford are expanding existing departments and adding staff, he said.

"Virtually every large American university now offers a variety of courses on Africa, even though it may not have a designated African studies program," Shinn explained. "The African Studies Association, with 2,500 individual and institutional members, is also alive and well."

It was not always that way, he said. Even though American interest in the continent spiked up in the 1960s after the independence era, "by the 1970s, when military coups, famines and dictatorships became all too common in Africa, the bloom came off the rose. African studies programs began to suffer as well.

"But they survived and, in a few cases, even expanded. Older programs at schools like Northwestern, UCLA, Indiana,

Howard, Florida and Michigan State continue to do well," the scholar said.

Shinn cited examples that supported his view of the growth in the African studies area:

- There has been a steady increase in the faculty in African studies at Princeton University over the last six years, from 12 to 20 professors and instructors.

- Stanford University's Center for African Studies hired six new faculty members in the school of humanities and sciences to focus on the continent. The university is also sponsoring initiatives to support student travel to Africa in response to this surging interest.

-- Harvard has expanded its Afro-American studies department to include an African language component and a new major in African studies. The new African and African-American studies department now has 25 faculty members and more than 1,000 students taking courses. "Harvard's President, Lawrence Summers, told the New York Times a year ago that we as a university are now going to be taking on African studies in the way we take on Asian studies or Latin American studies or have traditionally taken on European studies."

-- Emory University established its first African studies major. Emory's Institute of African Studies has 12 core faculty members and is supported by 21 other instructors from a number of departments.

-- Barnard College hired its first tenured professor to head the pan-African studies program in history, literature and cultures.

-- A federal grant was awarded to the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff's social and behavioral sciences department to establish a minor in African studies and African languages.

-- West Virginia State College received a special award last year for its TeleDrum program, which produces film documentaries in collaboration with the University of Dar es Salaam.

Shinn noted that American interest in the continent was sparked, in part, by U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) contracts in the 1960s that linked U.S. colleges of agriculture and forestry with counterparts in Africa. WVU participated in USAID-sponsored projects in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda.

"Many faculty members from WVU taught and conducted research at Makerere University in Uganda and Moi University and Egerton College in Kenya," Shinn said. "Robert Maxon was one who taught at Moi University. Many East Africans enrolled at WVU for both undergraduate and graduate degrees. Through the efforts of former Dean Robert Munn, WVU built a substantial collection of African materials."

In addition, WVU's history department "hired an African specialist in 1969 and awarded its first doctorate in 1974. Subsequently, 13 Ph.D.s who completed their dissertation on African subjects were awarded their degrees at WVU," he said.

Shinn, who spent about 17 years of his 37-year diplomatic career in Africa, said he began his own association with Africa while studying at George Washington University in the early 1960s. He continued graduate studies at Northwestern University's African studies program in the late 1960s and returned to GWU for more African studies in the late 1970s.

He said he was especially heartened to see GWU expand its African studies curriculum, noting that its Elliott School of International Affairs and the political science department hired their first full-time Africa specialist this year to support a number of professors who teach at least one course on Africa.

Interest in the continent among students is also on the rise, Shinn added. "In my more advanced undergraduate class," he said, "it is not unusual for 20 percent of the students to have had some previous direct contact with Africa -- a semester of study, travel there as a tourist or birth in an African country."

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